(c) whether there is any proposal to declare Ahmedabad as an International Airport like Trivandrum Airport;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) With effect from 26-1-1991, Air India are operating a once weekly service between Bombay and Ahmedabad. This service connects with international flights between Bombay and U.K./U.S.A.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

(e) The existing international airports in the country are adequate to cope with the international traffic at present.

Kandla-Bhatinda Railway Line

1881. SHRI HARIN PATHAK: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state the progress made in the construction of Kandla-Bhatinda broad gauge line?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MALLIKARJUN): 2% of the conversion work of Kandla-Bhatinda line has been completed. 50 Km portion of Lalgarh-Merta Road section is targetted for completion during 1991-92.

The final location survey for Viramgam-Bhildi new line/gauge conversion portion has also since been completed.

Pilferage of Coal

1882. SHRI HARIN PATHAK: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the coal supplied to industrial units in Gujarat is found under weight than recorded in the railway receipts; and

(b) if so, the steps proposed to be taken to check this pilferage?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MALLIKARJUN): (a) In some cases shortage was found after reweighment.

(b) To avoid pilferage in transit, RPF staff guard the coal rakes in the marshalling yards and escort them over vulnerable sections.

Tapti gas to Gujarat

1883. SHRI KASHIRAM RANA: Will the Minister of PETROLIUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the estimated allocation for exploration of Tapti gas fields;

(b) how much gas from Tapti gas fields will be allocated to Gujarat, and

(c) the allocation of gas to Gujarat for power projects?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND): (a) to (c) Some locations have been identified for drilling depending on the availability of resources and the inter-se priority. Allocations will depend on the availability and policies for the allotment of gas.

Closure of Surat, Bhavnagar and Jamnagar Airports

1884. SHRI KASHIRAM RANA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIAION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have decided to close down the Surat, Bhavnagar and Jamnagar airports; and

(b) if so, the reasons therefor?